Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-20 NSC-10 SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /179 W 128226

R 170755Z JAN 74 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9320 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY MANILA USMISSION OECD PARIS AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS TOKYO 0667

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB. JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE EMPLOYMENT AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

REF: STATE 002951

- 1. WHILE STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE FULL IMPACT OF ENERGY CRISIS UPON EMPLOYMENT, EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT WORK HOURS ARE BEING REDUCED, DAY-LABOR EMPLOYMENT DOWN AND SOME FIRMS HAVE ANNOUNCED MUCH REDUCED RECRUITMENT PLANS FOR NEW SCHOOL GRADUATES IN APRIL. EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (NIKKEIREN) OFFICIAL PREDICTS UNEMPLOYMENT WILL RISE BY 300,000 TO REACH ONE MILLION MARKET BY MID 1974. WHETHER THIS WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT EMPLOYEES WITH LIFE-TIME EMPLOYMENT TENURE NOT YET CLEAR. BUT THE ENERGY CRISIS IS ALREADY AFFECTING TEMPORARY AND CONTRACT WORKER EMPLOYMENT (WORKERS WHICH LARGE FIRMS UTILIZE TO MEET THEIR LABOR NEEDS WHILE KEEPING TO MINIMUM NUMBER OF THEIR PERMANENT EMPLOYEES.)
- 2. INITIAL IMPACT OF REDUCED LABOR REQUIREMENTS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY WILL IMPACT NOT SO MUCH ON ESTABLISHED BLUE COLLAR UNCLASSIFIED

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OR WHITE COLLAR WORKERS BUT UPON YOUNG, NEW ENTRANTS TO THE

LABOR MARKET, OLDER WORKERS AND FARMERS WHO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOME BY CASUAL OR DAY-LABOR IN THE CITIES. DESPITE THE APPARENT BEGINNING OF THIS NEW TREND, LABOR'S 1974 WAGE INCREASE DEMANDS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO MODERATE NOR, FOR THE SHORT RUN WILL LOWER-PAID JOBS BE EASIER TO FILL.

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